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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted at Nassau Community College (NCC) to determine how transfer students' performance at NCC compared with their performance at baccalaureate institutions; to compare the academic performance of graduate transfers with non-graduate transfers; and to determine what percentage of the transfers graduated from the baccalaureate institution within a 2- to 3-year period. Based on data supplied by 11 of the 16 four-year colleges receiving the largest numbers of NCC transfers, study findings included the following: (1) 44% of the transfer students were enrolled in a business major; (2) the correlation between the grade point average (GPA) of transferees at NCC and at the baccalaureate institute was .49154; (2) the correlation between two- and four-year college GPA's was higher among graduates than among non-graduates; (3) 50% of the NCC transfers graduated from the four-year institution within 2 years and an additional 10% within their third year; (4) 51% of the NCC graduates and 42% of the non-graduates graduated from the four-year college within 2 years. (LAL)

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ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFEREES

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ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFEREES

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INTRODUCTION

From the time that Nassau Community College (NCC) graduated its first class in 1962, the College has been following the performance of its transferees. A comprehensive report, the Follow-up Study of Students Graduating from Nassau Community College Between 1962-65 (Lane, 1968) was the College's first attempt to determine how well NCC students fared when they continued their studies toward a baccalaureate degree. Next, a study, Comparative Academic Performance at the Baccalaureate Level Between Graduate Transferees at Nassau Community College and Native Students at Selected Public/Private Institutions (Fernandez, Raab, Baldwin, 1977) followed a different tack, comparing transfer and native students at the baccalaureate level. In 1981, a study of NCC's non-graduate as well as graduate transferees culminated in a report of Academic Success and Persistence of Graduate and Non-Graduate Transferees 1974-77 (Baldwin, Fernandez, Raab).

The current effort of the Academic Program Study (APS) Office in this area developed as an outgrowth of the above-mentioned studies. This report is an effort to initiate an annual flow of data to NCC from participating four-year colleges (those to which most of the College's students transfer). Additionally, an effort is being made through the SUNY Association of Institutional Research and Planning Officers (AIRPO) organization to establish a uniform method by which SUNY community colleges could request and collect data about their students who transfer.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The rationale for conducting this study was to determine the following:

1. *How does the student transferee's (NCC) community college performance compare with his/her performance at the baccalaureate institution?*

2. *How does the performance of the (NCC) community college graduate transferee compare with that of the non-graduate (NCC) community college transferee?*

3. *What percent of the community college (NCC) transferees graduated from the baccalaureate institutions within a two-year period/three-year period?*

METHODOLOGY

A letter was sent from Dr. Sean Fanelli, President of NCC, to the Presidents of 16 baccalaureate institutions. All agreed to cooperate, although usable data were received from 11.

A descriptive outline and a record layout were forwarded to the research contact individual at each of the institutions.

Population

Students transferring with 40 or more credits to the following baccalaureate institutions comprised the population for the study:

BACCALAUREATE INSTITUTION	USABLE N
C.W. Post	152
CUNY John Jay	8
CUNY Queens	83
Hofstra	251
New York Institute of Technology	91
Pace	12
SUC Brockport	12
SUC Old Westbury	61
SUNY Albany	49
SUNY Binghamton	43
SUNY Stony Brook	72

Criteria for institutional selection: colleges/universities receiving the largest numbers of NCC transferees and/or receiving transferees from NCC programs currently undergoing Program Review.

Data could not be used if 1) the 40 credit transfer criterion was not met, 2) the social security number was not correct, or 3) necessary data and/or program areas were missing.

TABLE I

POPULATION BY BACCALAUREATE AREA

PROGRAM AREAS	PERCENT
Business	44%
Education	7%
Health & Social Services	5%
Humanities	4%
Liberal Arts	8%
Math & Computer Science	7%
Natural & Applied Science	8%
Social Science	16%

Program Areas

The population was distributed according to the baccalaureate program (HEGIS) areas in Table I. Useable data, combined in Table I, provided the percent of students in each program area. All other data were compiled and reported for individual participating baccalaureate institutions.

The Baccalaureate programs classified under the above program areas are as follows:

BUSINESS	(HEGIS CODE)
Business	0500 - 0599
Business & Commerce Technologies	5000 - 5099
EDUCATION	
Education	0800 - 0899
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	
Health	1201 - 1299
Law	1400 - 1499
Library	1600 - 1699
Military	1800 - 1899
Public Affairs	2100 - 2199
HUMANITIES	
Communications	0600 - 0699
Fine Arts	1000 - 1099
Foreign Language	1100 - 1199
Letters	1500 - 1599
Theology	2300 - 2399
LIBERAL ARTS	**(HEGIS CODE)**
Liberal Arts	4900 - 4999
MATH & COMPUTER SCIENCE	
Computers	0700 - 0799
Math	1700 - 1799
Data Processing Technologies	5100 - 5199
NATURAL & APPLIED SCIENCE	
Agriculture	0101 - 0199
Architecture	0200 - 0399
Biology	0400 - 0499
Engineering	0900 - 0999
Physical Science	1900 - 1999
SOCIAL SCIENCE	
Psychology	2000 - 2099
Social Science	2200 - 2299

ANALYSIS

In order to study the performance of NCC graduates and non-graduates at the baccalaureate institutions, an SPSS BREAKDOWN program was run with the NCC GPA as the criterion variable categorized by college, program area, and graduate status. The program was then repeated with the baccalaureate GPA as the criterion variable.

The program, SPSS CROSSTABS, was performed for baccalaureate graduates who were NCC graduate or non-graduate transferees, in order to determine their length of stay.

To compare student transferees' community college performance (cumulative GPA) with their performance at the baccalaureate institution, an SAS CORR was performed using the variables of Baccalaureate GPA and NCC GPA by school and graduation status.

RESULTS

In answer to the first research question, "*How does the student transferee's community college performance compare with his/her performance at the baccalaureate institution?*", overall results show that the correlation between the GPA of transferees at NCC and the GPA at the baccalaureate institution is .49154.

In answer to the second research question, "*How does the performance of the community college graduate transferee compare with that of the non-graduate community college transferee?*", results show that the correlation between GPA at NCC and at the baccalaureate institutuion is higher for graduates (.52497) than for non-graduates (.32565).

In answer to the last research question, "*What percent of the community college (NCC) transferees graduated from the baccalaureate institutions within a two-year period/three year period?*", results of the CROSSTAB show that 50% of the NCC transferees graduate from the baccalaureate institution within 2 years and an additional 10% (60% total) within the third year.

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SAMPLE

Table II cites the results for your institution. Transferees who obtained a degree from NCC are differentiated from those who did not graduate.

For each group, the total number (N) is provided, with the GPA at NCC and at the baccalaureate institution. The number and percent who graduate from the school are recorded

TABLE II

	NCC GRADS					NCC NON-GRADS				
HEGIS AREA	N	NCC GPA	BACC GPA	BACC GRADS 2 YRS	3 YRS	N	NCC GPA	BACC GPA	BACC GRADS 2 YRS	3 YRS
BUSINESS	127	3.24	2.80	82(65%)	2(2%)	20	2.92	2.60	16(80%)	0(0)%
EDUCATION	16	3.41	3.30	11(69%)	0(0%)	1	2.11	2.31	0(0%)	0(0%)
HUMANITIES	17	3.37	2.92	11(65%)	0(0%)	1	3.03	1.90	0(0%)	0(0%)
SOC.SCIENCE	23	3.30	2.92	12(52%)	0(0%)	3	2.93	3.21	2(66%)	1(33%)
MAT'L & APPL.SCI.	11	3.26	2.71	3(27%)	0(0%)	2	2.91	1.54	0(0%)	0(0%)
MATH/CMP	25	3.09	2.72	15(60%)	2(8%)	3	2.88	2.47	1(33%)	1(33%)
SERVICE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LIBERAL ARTS	2	3.26	3.33	0(0%)	0(0%)	0	-	-	0(0%)	0(0%)

CORRELATIONS OF GPA

NCC Graduates	.65153
NCC Non-graduates	.32754
Overall	.63545

The program area indicated is the area at the baccalaureate institution. The chart does not indicate the number of transferees who changed areas upon transferring. Such a flowchart is planned for the future.

Additionally, results show that 51% of NCC graduates graduate from the baccalaureate institution within 2 years and a total of 60% within 3 years.

As to NCC non-graduates, 42% graduated from the baccalaureate institution within 2 years and a total of 54% within 3 years.

FORTHCOMING ANALYSIS

It is anticipated that as baccalaureate survey data are collected on an annual basis, the N's will become large enough to perform a multiple regression analysis. The resulting equation may then be used for predicting success at the baccalaureate institutions.

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